Instrumentation Protocol Changes

The 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) instrumentation protocols underwent several modifications from the protocols employed for the 2013 NSDUH. A summary of the changes for the 2014 NSDUH can be divided into three topics: (1) the computer-assisted interviewing (CAI) screening instrument, (2) the CAI questionnaire, and (3) the interviewer materials.

1.   Screening Instrument

Using the 2013 Screening Application as a base, questions, response options, and informed consent wording were modified for the 2014 Screening Application. Listed below are the Screening Application changes for 2014:

- As necessary, dates were updated in the screening program.
- The SDU (sample dwelling unit) Characteristics screen was deleted.
- The Controlled Access screen was deleted.
- The wording to the Missed DU (dwelling unit) screen was updated to accurately reflect new sampling procedures.

2.   CAI Questionnaire

Using the 2013 CAI Questionnaire as a base, questions and routing were modified for the 2014 CAI Questionnaire. Listed below are the CAI Questionnaire changes for 2014:

- The CAI instrument version and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) expiration date was updated in the Introduction section.
- The range of military service eras was edited in QD10b.
- The response options in the tutorial question ALLAPPLY were updated to create an exhaustive list of options.
- The routing for MJMM01 (medical marijuana) was edited so that respondents who report having used marijuana more than a year ago and report blunt use more than 30 days ago, but within the past 12 months, also receive MJMM01.
- Logic was added so that past 30-day blunt users would not receive LU02.
- A hard error associated with CHK12M was edited for accuracy.
- The logic for HLTH08, HLTH08a, HLTH08b, HLTH10, HLTH10a, and HLTH10b was edited for programming efficiency. Routing for these items was also edited.
- Emphasis was added to key words in HLTH12 through HLTH15. The acceptable answer range was also edited for these items.

- The logic for HLTH18 was edited so that only past year tobacco users were asked this question. Previously, lifetime users were also routed through this question.
- A programmer's note was edited to reflect a wording change in INTROINC.
- A new item, QP03a, was added to identify an available proxy if one is not identified during the first cycle of these items. Added routing to lead respondents through proxy identification questions again if an available proxy is not identified on the first cycle. Edited programmer notes of proxy identification questions for accuracy.
- State program names for Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) were updated.
- The wording of INTROINC was edited to improve flow.

3.   Interviewer Materials

The 2014 interviewer materials and protocols for using those materials were based on the 2013 interviewer materials and protocols. In addition to minor wording revisions and year updates (2013 to 2014), the following changes were made for the 2014 interviewer materials:

- The Quality Control Forms and Reference Date Calendars were printed on blue-colored paper.
- The Lead Letter included the updated survey year and expiration dates in the FI ID badge image and minor wording updates about the number of households randomly selected.
- The Study Description included the updated survey year, and the OMB burden statement was added to the bottom.
- The Introduction and Informed Consent for Interview Respondents Age 12-17 [in the Showcard Booklet] was updated to replace the word "mailing" with "current" when referring to the respondent address.
- The Introduction and Informed Consent for Interview Respondents Age 18+ [in the Showcard Booklet] was updated to replace the word "mailing" with "current" when referring to the respondent address.
- The RTI/SAMHSA Fact Sheet included minor wording updates to reflect recent information about the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and RTI International (a registered trademark and a trade name of Research Triangle Institute) and the updated year through which RTI was contracted to conduct NSDUH.
- The Q&A (Question and Answer) Brochure included the updated year through which RTI was contracted to conduct NSDUH.
- The Doorperson Letter included updated expiration dates in the FI ID badge image.
- The Who Uses the Data handout was updated to change the name of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America to Partnership at Drugfree.org.

- The NSDUH Respondent Website content included minor text updates. The NSDUH in the News web page was updated with links to recent articles and reports, and a video containing footage from the most recent NSDUH press conference was added.

- One short report, *The NSDUH Report: Nonmedical Use of Prescription-Type Drugs, by County Type* (Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, 2013b), and two Data Spotlights, *Data Spotlight: Cigarette Smoking Decreases among All Adults except Those Aged 26 to 34* (Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, 2013a) and *Data Spotlight: 1 in 5 Parents Think What They Say Has Little Influence on Their Child's Substance Use* (Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, 2013c), were added to the interviewer materials for use with respondents.

- The Showcard Booklet underwent a few updates for 2014:

  - Updated Showcard 4 with revised response options for QD10b;

  - Added more dosages of Temazepam to Pill Card D;

  - In the Interviewer Job Aids, updated the Informed Consent Reference Guide to reflect that an adult must be present when interviewing a youth respondent, removed the Headway Accident and Injury Reporting Procedures and Physical Features information, revised the Sampling Process Explanation and Missed DU pages based on the 2014 NSDUH sample design, removed the text "To the extent possible" from the Steps to Maximize Data Quality, added reminders to turn off the laptop at the end of an interview and secure the computer equipment in the event of an accident, and reordered the section to improve the flow.

- The Newspaper Article handout was updated with new articles featuring information on mental illness and smoking, marijuana use among young adults, and how most prescription pain medications are obtained illegally.

- The NSDUH Highlights were updated to reflect the 2014 study results.

- The SAMHSA Authorization letter included the updated contract number.

- The ePTE Working Copy was updated with the 2014 project number.

Copies of the 2014 interviewer materials can be found in Section 7, Written Communication, in the *2014 NSDUH Methodological Resource Book*.

References

Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2013a, March). *The NSDUH Report, Data Spotlight: Cigarette smoking decreases among all adults except those aged 26 to 34*. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Retrieved from http://www.samhsa.gov/data/

Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2013b, April). *The NSDUH Report: Nonmedical use of prescription-type drugs, by county type*. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Retrieved from http://www.samhsa.gov/data/

Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2013c, May). *The NSDUH Report, Data Spotlight: 1 in 5 parents think what they say has little influence on their child's substance use*. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Retrieved from http://www.samhsa.gov/data/